

## Technical Memorandum No. 1: Project Objectives, Study Area and Outreach

### Zone 1A Watershed Planning Project Scoping Study

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## Introduction

In September of 2010, the Sonoma County Water Agency (Water Agency) released the “Sonoma County Water Agency Water Supply Strategies Action Plan” which lays out nine strategies developed to (1) improve reliability of facilities, (2) comply with the Russian River Biological Opinion, (3) maintain current water supply and quality, (4) ensure projects are affordable, (5) reduce organizational fragmentation and increase communication with Water Contractors and other partners, and (6) plan for the future. While each of the nine strategies developed in the Action Plan are not themselves specific ends, each are mechanisms which, if used collectively, will achieve the goals and priorities identified by the Water Agency and its partners.

In an effort to move toward its goals, The Water Agency is working to implement the nine strategies presented in the Action Plan. The fourth strategy developed in the Action Plan, Water Supply Strategy Four, is to pursue combined water supply and flood control projects. This strategy clearly documents the steps necessary to implement such multi-benefit projects. The immediate action outlined in the implementation process is to identify projects within the Water Agency Flood Control Zones that reduce flooding and increase groundwater recharge.

As a component of the overall effort to identify and develop multi-benefit projects within the Water Agency Flood Control Zones, the Water Agency has initiated a Scoping Study in the Laguna-Mark West Watershed. The Water Agency has contracted with Winzler & Kelly and other subconsultants (the W&K Team) to (1) establish project objectives, (2) use the project objectives to prioritize a project Study Area, (3) relay the project Study Area to project stakeholders and solicit feedback, (4) use stakeholder comments and priorities to develop and rank project alternatives, (5) identify potential funding sources

for specific project alternatives, (6) develop a scope of work for a future feasibility study of the project alternatives, (7) and develop a project implementation plan for each project alternative.

This Technical Memorandum sets forth the Project Objectives, defines the Project Study Area and addresses outreach to the Project Stakeholders. The draft document will be presented to the Stage 1 Stakeholders for review and comment and will then become the basis for project alternatives analysis and selection.

## Project Objectives

As its Key Project Purpose, the Agency desires to identify project alternatives within the Laguna-Mark West Watershed that satisfy the core objectives, while maximizing opportunities for additional watershed benefits through engaging supporting objectives. These projects are envisioned as inclusive of either of the following:

- Any single project that satisfies all core objectives.
- A suite of project “elements” that function physically as stand-alone projects but which may be combined to collectively address the core and selected supporting objectives.

Core and supporting objectives are defined as follows.

### Core Objectives

- **Flood Hazard Reduction**  
Improve management of stormwater that contributes, directly or indirectly to downstream flooding, thereby reducing flood hazards.
- **Groundwater Recharge**  
Increase beneficial recharge of groundwater, whether or not that recharged groundwater is directly accessible as water supply.

### Supporting Objectives

- **Water Quality**  
Improve the quality of surface water and/or groundwater.
- **Water Supply**  
Increase or improve water supply availability, reliability, and flexibility for domestic, municipal, industrial and agricultural use and for the environment.
- **System Sustainability**  
Implement projects that enhance our ability to sustainably manage the watershed, and/or enhance the watershed’s ability to naturally manage themselves.

- **Ecosystem**  
Improve ecosystem function and/or habitat enhancement, especially for listed species.
- **Agricultural Land**  
Preserve agricultural land use.
- **Open Space**  
Preserve and/or enhance open space.
- **Community Benefits**  
Create and/or enhance recreation, public access, education, etc.

## Project Study Area

The Project Study Area includes all of the area within the Sonoma County Water Agency, Flood Zone 1A, Laguna-Mark West watershed (see attached figures). Project alternatives will be considered throughout the watershed. Core objectives will be used to focus efforts within the overall project area (the Laguna-Mark West Watershed). Where specific areas within the watershed do not provide the potential to satisfy a core objective, that area will be excluded from additional study. By applying each core objective to the overall project area in this exclusionary manner, a Prioritized Project Study Area will be identified for the development of project alternatives. In order to identify the Project Study Area(s), Geographic Information System (GIS) modeling will be used as a tool to apply the core objectives by means of asking a series of yes or no questions which correspond to the core objectives.

## Core Objectives

- **Flood Hazard Reduction**
  - Are there locations of known/historical urban flooding downstream?
  - Is there significant upstream drainage/catchment area?
- **Groundwater Recharge**
  - Can we expect the shallow geologic formations to be reasonably permeable?

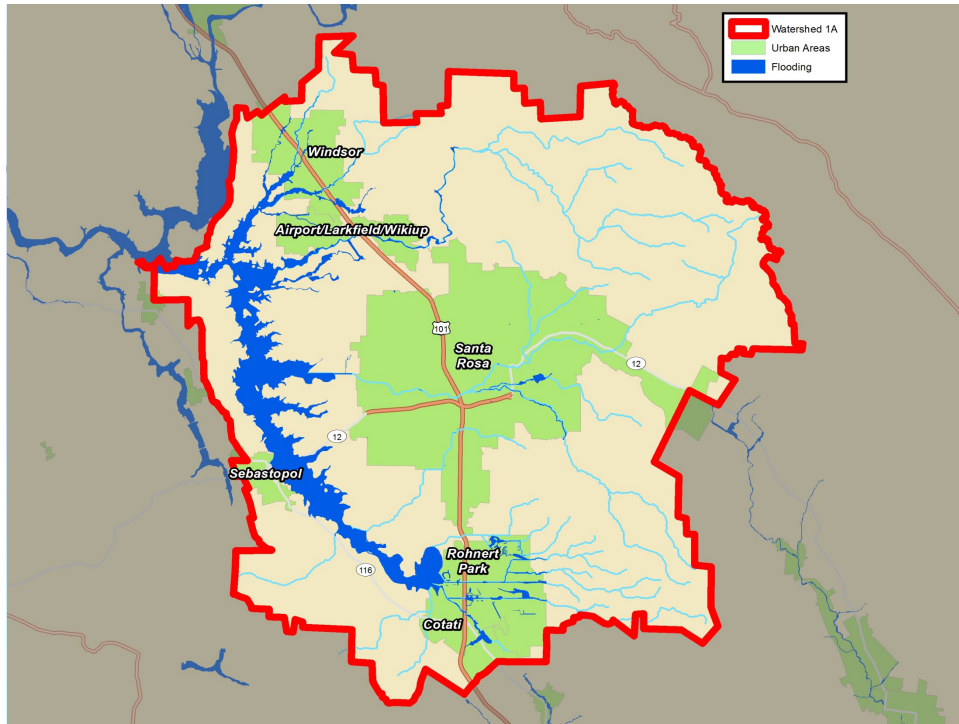
## Stakeholder Outreach

While the core objectives are used to help focus the study area and identify potential projects, the supporting objectives are used to help prioritize the projects. In order to prioritize projects, each supporting objective will be assigned a relative weight that represents the emphasis that will be placed on the importance of that objective. Stakeholder concerns, input, comments, and discussion regarding the supporting objectives are an essential element in determining each supporting objective's relative weight. Clearly identifying and defining the function of each supporting objective will help guide a constructive and valuable stakeholder discussion and will ultimately help establish the factors that will be considered in assigning weights to each supporting objective.

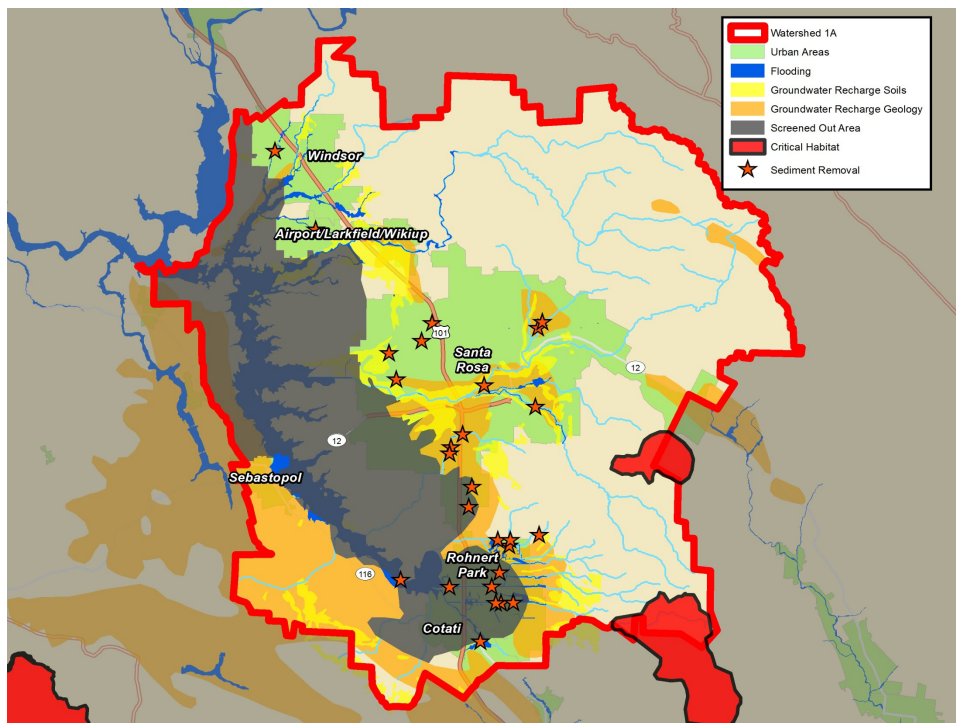
Stakeholders have been identified that include potential project partners, watershed related interest groups, and regulators. Multiple Project stakeholders will be engaged through a series of stakeholder meetings during the course of this Scoping Study. Various stakeholder meetings will be conducted during the course of the Scoping Study to discuss and solicit input on project objectives, conceptual project alternatives, and project implementation strategy. The stakeholder meetings will include an initial meeting with potential project partners (Stage 1 Stakeholders), followed by meetings with broader interested watershed entities (Stage 2 Stakeholders), and applicable regulators (Stage 3 Stakeholders).

Stage 1 Stakeholders consist primarily of potential partnering entities that may participate directly in the funding and/or implementation of these projects, and in most cases have jurisdictions that cover more than one of the three watersheds currently being studied by the Agency. Stage 2 Stakeholders primarily consist of a broader group of entities anticipated to have a general interest or role in watershed projects of this nature and/or entities with geographic jurisdictions/interests contained within a single watershed, but likely to have a less direct role in the actual implementation of the subject projects. Stage 3 Stakeholders include regulatory entities applicable to the subject projects.

Attachment – Project Study Area



PROJECT STUDY AREA



PRIORITIZED PROJECT STUDY AREA